



**ESTHER LUTHERAN, ELCA**  
 June 2024 Newsletter  
*"Knowing Christ – Making Christ Known Through  
 Faith, Hope and Love."*

11019 625<sup>th</sup> Ave – Parkers Prairie, MN 56361

Church Phone: 218-338-2171

Website: [www.estherlutheran.com](http://www.estherlutheran.com)

Office Email: [secretary@estherlutheran.net](mailto:secretary@estherlutheran.net)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/estherlutheran](https://www.facebook.com/estherlutheran)

## Northwest Minnesota Synod Assembly Re-cap

Nancy Bunde and Jewel Townsend attended this year's Synod Assembly on May 17 & 18 at Concordia College, Moorhead, MN. This year's NW MN ELCA Convention was relatively small and didn't have much controversy. We had really good key-note speakers, Pastor Jon Anderson from Luther Seminary, and Jill Beverlin, Program Director of the ELCA Coaching Ministry. At our Saturday morning worship we had a beautiful Pentecost service with a really cool scripture reading that included drums, beautiful singing (wow- all those church leaders sure can sing!), a sermon by Bishop Tesch, and during the service we commissioned 48 SAMs – some of which have been serving over 15 years, and some of which were brand new. We both went to different breakout sessions and this is what we would like to share:

**Nancy:** I attended a break-out session on Saturday that really spoke to me, by our keynote speaker for the convention, Jon Anderson, a pastor and professor at Luther Seminary who is the Rural Ministry Director and on the Faith+Lead team. The title of the workshop was "Digital Resources to Deepen Capacity and Widen Imagination". It may sound silly to have a Rural Ministry person talk about Digital Resources, but rural congregations using resources, already created and digitally available, saves time and money!! And why not share information within the rural congregation communities. Pastor Anderson shared information that showed this - **Cultural Values of the Digital Age:**

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Proclamation	Questions
Hierarchy	Collaboration
In-Person	Hybrid Connection
Passivity	Creativity

Pastor Jon shared four points for congregations to consider:

- 1. Pivot in Posture:** from Fixing - to Listening, Discerning, and Experimenting. Instead of "fixing" inherited structures in order to reverse the decline of institutional affiliation, participation and resources, churches should focus on discerning and joining the triune: God's presence and movement in their personal and congregational lives and in their neighborhoods.
- 2. Pivot in Focus:** from Membership - to Discipleship. Churches that thrive will orient their communal culture around practices and relations that connect faith and daily life, answering questions of meaning, belonging, hope, and purpose
- 3. Pivot in Structure:** from One Shape Fits All - to a Mixed Ecology. The term "church" conjures up a particular institutional expression (dedicated building, staff, programming focused on Sunday worship) The shift would be to mix Christian community that connect with people where they live, work and play.

**4. Pivot in Leadership:** from Clergy-Led/Lay Supported - to Lay-Led/Clergy Supported Ministry. We have an opportunity to reimagine leadership in ways that faithfully mobilize all the gifts of the body of Christ to participate in God's mission. I feel Esther is really good already at this point.

If you would like more information or links to some of Pastor Andersons presentations, please let me know. Nancy

**Jewel:** I attended a Saturday morning session with our new synod Minister for Generosity, Keith Pearson. Keith had only been in the position a few days and we had officially commissioned him to the position on Friday night. Going into this session I thought it was going to be some number-crunching, money-pushing presentation, but it was quite the opposite and beautifully led. I had seen Pastor Keith previously at a Luther Crest event, because for the past nearly five years he has served our synod as our Regional Gift Planner with the ELCA Foundation, providing consultation and resources to our various ministries in the areas of endowments and planned giving.

Keith's presentation was: **Why do you support the church?**

He asked for reasons from the participants. Some of the answers shared were:

- It's my obligation
- I need to pay my fair share
- It's a service to me
- It's something essential that you can't get anywhere else
- It's something I want everyone else to have

Pastor Keith spoke about how the church is not a business, and it is not the building we are in – the church is the congregation of people. He gave the example, that he is a musician and author, so he is always concerned about copyright laws. His congregation was going to be doing a worship service at a park somewhere else in his community, so he was concerned that because they weren't in the "church" (building/property), they would violate the copyright laws for the music they were going to play. After some research, he found that the federal government does not recognize the "church" as the building or property, but wherever the congregation meets. So if that's how even the government understands the "church", why do we get so caught up in the building or property? It's kind of like that song – "We are the Church", that we sang just a few weeks ago in worship at Esther. He also said that while we can learn some things from other non-profits, churches have their own non-profit category, and really cannot be compared to a business or even a non-profit, as the services we provide are much different than either of those types of entities. He also mentioned that we tend to always get hung up on keeping the lights on and keeping the buildings repaired. When what really is our main purpose as a congregation? It was the second time in the past month that I heard the phrase, "you have to remember that none of those churches that Paul wrote all those letters to and started up, are still going today." However, look at how the **Good News** spread from those first, early churches to the entire world!

He then used that same list from before and asked that we do a mind-shift of the order of importance of the list, and shared these thoughts:

1. **It's something I want everyone else to have** – now, tomorrow and well into the future. How welcoming are we to new people, or people that aren't "like us"? The time we spend together at church is vital to our well-being. The things we learn about Jesus, the faith journeys we are on with one another, and the care we provide to our congregations and communities are important to us and what we want for others. Where do I put my treasure? Where my heart is!

2. **It's an essential service that you can't get anywhere else** – one lady spoke up and said, “I can't get my sins forgiven anywhere else!” We come together to praise God, lift each other up in prayer, support one another, share food and fellowship, and essentially “fill up our cup” so we can go out into the world to be the hands and feet of Jesus to others.
3. **My fair share** – not everyone may be able to contribute the same amount. Those who have been blessed with healthy financial situations, probably were not always in that same situation. Everyone is in a different financial situation, and at different points in their lives. It does not make one person more important than someone else due to what they can contribute. We need to welcome everyone and be sure that everyone has a voice in our congregations. We also need to remember that it is not just by monetary contributions that people give. We give of our time, talents and treasure.
4. **My obligation** – while we don't want this to be our main reason for supporting our congregations, obligation, to many, means commitment. Committing financially to our congregations ensures we are able to continue to provide worship and other services to our faith community to help us in sharing the Good News with others.

At the end of the presentation, we had a wonderful discussion with a couple of gals that were in the session, from the Holmes City church that has the Farmer's Market every Saturday during the summer. They said that their “little problem” was that they serve over 400 people breakfast every Saturday from mid-May to mid-October, however there are only about 24 people in church on any given Sunday. “What are we doing wrong?” This got the group in a big discussion that made us almost late for worship – but it was a great discussion about seeds being planted and souls being fed. Jewel

We had a wonderful time and would like to encourage each of you to visit the tables by the office to see some of the literature that we brought back from the Assembly. If you have any questions please let us know – we would be happy to share even more about some of the other presentations. For instance, Peoples' Church in Bemidji, which is part of our synod, just received a government grant to expand their building and the services that they provide for their community, which was lifted up in thankful praise at the Assembly!

There are lots of great things going on in our synod and the ELCA. We encourage you to keep up on these happenings by going to our website [www.estherlutheran.com](http://www.estherlutheran.com) and click on the “Faith Formation Resources” tab to find many great resources waiting for you to explore, including our synod newsletter “Northern Lights”.

Nancy Bunde and Jewel Townsend

---

### IN OUR PRAYERS

Yvonne Anderson	Colleen Burquest	Kristy Fyhrie	Ernie & Georgia Hart
Scott Hart	Mike Heiser	Al Pederson	Luella Thom
Eleanor Thompson	Ralph Townsend	Gary Borst – friend of the Andersons	
Barb Burns – sister of Jerry Anderson		Marsha Clow - sister of Linda Arvidson	
Judy Flemming – mother of Laurie Ratajesak		Ty Hawes – friend of the McDaniels	
Woody Hoiseth – friend of the Thoms		Ivy McKane – friend of Hagens and Guenthers	
Jamison Pogose – nephew of Chuck Pogose		Cindy Rachuy - sister of Dawn Kreidler	
Barb Tvedt – mother of Joan Burquest		Jason Wehking – friend of Esther members	
Family and Friends of: Cindy Skoglund, Mary Durling, Lee Wesolowski, Jen Wintheiser			

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

6/01 Jack Olson  
6/01 Al Pederson  
6/02 Darwin Hart  
6/02 Amber Johnson  
6/02 Amber Ness  
6/03 Kilen Klimek  
6/04 Adam Grabow  
6/06 Rebecca Orth  
6/08 Kayla Thoennes  
6/09 Rachel Denny  
6/13 Aria Nordlund  
6/14 Kirsten Hart  
6/15 Devin Steele  
6/16 Michelle Moyle  
6/16 Ann Skoglund  
6/19 Craig Gardner  
6/21 Lane Hagen  
6/23 Dominic Hart  
6/23 Scott Hart  
6/24 Tara Skoglund  
6/24 Laney Steidl  
6/27 Emerlee Skoglund  
6/28 Rob Stanley  
6/29 Haile Lenzen  
6/30 Bode Wagner

## Serving in June

**Pastor:** June 2 – Dennis Preston; June 9 – Tom Kolden;  
June 16 – Ken Thiele; June 23 – Greg Billberg;  
June 30 – Lay Led

**Organists:** Marcia Guenther, Brad Lambrecht

**Altar Care:** Donna Pederson

**Communion Assistant:** Luella Thom

**Lay Reader:** Nancy Bunde

**Ushers:** Larry Doll

**Acolyte:** NEED VOLUNTEER

**Birthday Card Sender:** Donna Pederson

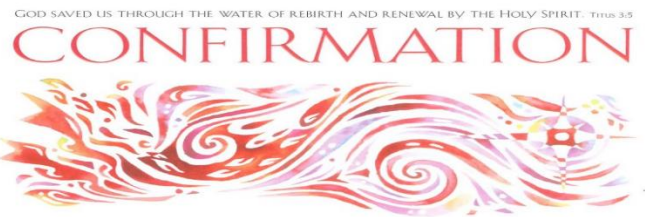
**Tech Team:** Mandy Arvidson, Mike Lage, Jewel  
Townsend

**Birthday Fellowship:** Jim & Linda Arvidson, Rick &  
Marcia Guenther, Jen Melby



**VBS at Esther will be June 9-12**, starting each evening with supper at 5:30 pm with lessons, music, crafts

and worship from 6-8 pm. For more information contact Karin Wagner. Be sure to invite friends, grandkids, cousins, and neighbors to join in the fun!



**Congratulations** to Wyatt Asleson, McKinnely Bosl, Landen Nistler, Calie Schlosser and Isabell Steidl on their Affirmation of Baptism that took place on May 19. God's richest blessing to each of you and we look forward to walking on your faith journeys with you in the many years to come!



Faith Lutheran of Miltona and  
Esther Lutheran of Rural Parkers Prairie  
invite you to their



## **“Pork Chop Dinner”**

Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024

4:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Faith Lutheran Church

5500 County Road 14 NE  
Miltona, MN 53654

Adults: \$12.00

Children: 5 - 10 \$6.00

Children Under 5: Free

*Hot dogs are available for the kids upon request*

*Community Fellowship Sponsored by:  
Faith Lutheran of Miltona and Esther Lutheran of Parkers Prairie*

**The PORK CHOP FEED SIGN-UP is on the narthex table for workers and for making pans of bars for the event.** There are also flyers available - please take a few and hang up around the community when you are out and about.





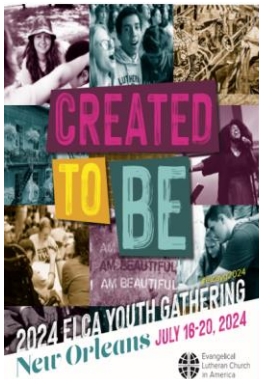
### QUILTING MINISTRY SUMMER EVENT!!

Hey Quilters! Let's get together Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 am at Esther. We will box up the quilts for LWR and other places we wish to donate. Once that is complete, we will go to Rose City Café for lunch.



### WORSHIP BY THE WATER JULY 14<sup>TH</sup>

Worship by the water will be at Rodney Peterson's home on Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup>. Worship will begin at 10 am with a potluck following. Be sure to invite friends, family and neighbors to this annual fun event!



Esther youth that are attending the Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer are selling stock. As a stockholder you are entitled to:

- Access the New Orleans updates online!
- Invited to the Stock Holder Presentation!
- An opportunity to pray for our youth!

Stock purchase forms can be found on the narthex table.

### CALL COMMITTEE

If you are interested in serving on the Call Committee, to help complete the Call Process, there is a sign-up sheet and resources on the narthex table. You can also research the responsibilities of the Call Committee and the Call Process by going to <https://www.nwmnsynod.org/resources/pages/call-process-resources> and clicking on "Call Process Handbook".



### JOIN THE CHOIR!

Starting June 9, we will be practicing each Sunday of June after worship, and some Wednesday evenings (will be determined on June 9). All ages are welcome!

The first Call Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, June 18, at 6:30 pm.



### ESTHER WELCA REPORT June 2024

WELCA met on May 12, 2024 @ 8:30. We had 6 members present for the meeting.

We are still in need of a voting member to attend the Annual Convention September 20 & 21.

WELCA pays for the registration and hotel accommodation. The convention will be held at Christ the King Lutheran in Moorhead.

Ice Cream Social is right around the corner ... make sure on your calendar: JULY 28th .

Ruth Circle will Make the Ice Cream  
Naomi Circle will serve  
Martha Circle will do advertising



<b>2024 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>\$124,376.00</b>
<b>Contributions needed per month</b>	<b>\$10,364.67</b>
<b>Contributions needed per week</b>	<b>\$2,391.84</b>
 <b>Contributions YTD as of 5/31/24</b>	 <b>\$44,668.64</b>
<b>Budget needed YTD</b>	<b>\$51,823.33</b>
<b>YTD Actual Contributions vs.</b>	<b>-\$7,154.69</b>

Checking account is at \$ 1,4144.37  
Savings/memorial is at \$ 7,534.21. The AED is here and installed. The WELCA covered the costs to get it ordered. We had pledged \$1000 to the unit. Is anyone from the Esther Congregation willing to help donate to cover the costs above the \$1,000 WELCA paid?

We will get together to box up the quilts on June 12ths at 10:30 and then go to lunch afterwards at Rose City. There are 3 picked out for Luther Crest ... we will pick out some for the Country Store as well.

We discussed the coffee cups in the kitchen. We will see about taking the ones left from our 125 th anniversary to use. Along with donating the ones we have to Someplace Safe.

There are still a number of 8 x 12 stained plexiglass wall hangings that need to be taped. If you can help, please let us know.

Donna Pederson is our Sunshine Committee. If there is anyone in the congregation sick, in the hospital, or needs a pick me up, please let Donna know and she will send them a card.

Kathy Mittag made hot pads to use under big hot dish pans for potlucks or funerals. Hot items directly on the stainless-steel tables cool down very quickly if something is not used. Thank you, Kathy,... they are very nice. Remember each circle when you serve, to use these beautiful and useful gifts.

Lana ordered new "RESERVED" signs to be used during funerals or any event where we are reserving tables. There were parts missing from our old ones. Circles please note we do have them for the future.

We decided to stay with the same ice cream and pie prices from last year.

We voted to do maybe a couple Silent Auction baskets for the Annual convention in September. LAKE will be the theme for one, and COFFEE BAR, for the other. If you would like to help add to our

baskets, please leave it on the table in the Narthex ... with a note .. Coffee Bar or Lake.

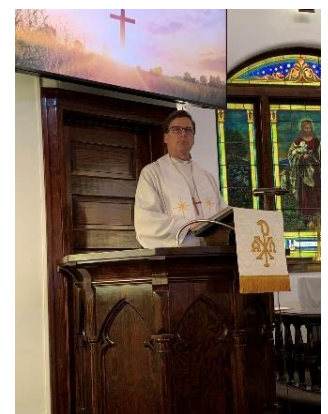


The Quilt Ladies made a Quilted Cross Wall Hanging as a farewell gift to Pastor Scott and Jacey. We wish them well in their new venture as he becomes the Chaplain at the Veterans Hospital in St. Cloud.

The Conference 8 Fall Gathering is at First Lutheran in Parkers... in our back yard, so please put this on your calendar. The date is October 8th .

Next meeting is June 9th.

Luella Thom, President



**We pray in thanks for the ministry we have shared with Pastor Scott and Jacey Hoecker, and we pray for blessings upon his new ministry and the next chapter of their lives!**



**THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO TAUGHT  
SUNDAY SCHOOL and CONFIRMATION  
THIS PAST SCHOOL YEAR!  
Your passion, time and talents are greatly  
appreciated by your congregation!**

---



**THANK YOU** to all who donated flowers to put on the graves - our cemetery is beautiful this year!

**THANK YOU** to all that helped place flowers on the graves that did not have flowers: Kathy Mittag, Eugene Arvidson, Pastor Scott Hoecker, Dennis Rosenquist, Dick and Luella Thom.

Last year we put flowers on 62 graves and this year we were able to put them on every grave that did not already have one. THANKS AGAIN EVERYONE FOR YOUR HELP!!

The end of June, we will need to remove them all again. Anyone wishing to help, we will gladly welcome your help. We remove them, then must let them dry so they do not get moldy. They are then packed away for next Memorial Day. More to come on when we will be doing this.

---

**2024 DIRECTORIES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE USHER TABLE.** We will not be labeling directories this year – please take as needed for you and your family. Additional copies will be printed as needed throughout the year. If you would like a directory sent to you by email or USPS, please contact [secretary@estherlutheran.net](mailto:secretary@estherlutheran.net).

---

If you would like to be added to our email list, please contact [secretary@estherlutheran.net](mailto:secretary@estherlutheran.net)

Visit our website at [estherlutheran.com](http://estherlutheran.com)

Follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/estherlutheran/](https://facebook.com/estherlutheran/)

---

Eternal God,  
Teach us to hold your name in the  
highest respect, and to speak it with  
reverence and honor, not only  
directly, but in our actions in the  
world. Make us to be reflections of  
your holiness—forgive us our sins,  
and set us apart for your work of  
love and justice in the world, for the  
sake of your son, Jesus Christ, our  
brother. Amen.

---

#### **LOOKING AHEAD...**

**Confirmation Class** will start up again with a Meet & Greet Potluck on September 11, for all students and their parents. We are inviting anyone, 7<sup>th</sup> grade through adult, who would like to be a part of the class, whether you have already had Confirmation instruction or not. If you are interested in having your child or yourself in class, please contact Larry Doll or Jewel Townsend.

---



**Caring Ministry** will meet on Monday, June 17, at 6 pm at Esther. All are welcome – please bring ideas and concerns you may have to help serve our congregation and community.

## June 2024 *“Knowing Christ-Making Christ Known through Faith, Hope and Love”*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>2 Third Sunday of Pentecost</b> 10 am - Worship w/Communion Coffee Fellowship after worship Council meet w/Pastor Preston 2 pm - Worship at St. Williams	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 6 pm - Council	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9 Fourth Sunday of Pentecost</b> 8:30 am - WELCA 10 am - Worship w/Noisy Offering Coffee Fellowship after worship Choir practice after worship 2 pm - Worship at St. Williams 5:30 pm – VBS Supper 6-8 pm - VBS	<b>10</b> Youth Group at Valleyfair  5:30 pm – VBS Supper  6-8 pm - VBS	<b>11</b> 5:30 pm – VBS Supper  6-8 pm - VBS	<b>12</b> 10:30 am – Quilting Ministry pack quilts and lunch at Rose City Café 5:30 pm – VBS Supper 6-8 pm - VBS	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16 Fifth Sunday of Pentecost and Fathers’s Day</b> 9:30 am - Birthday Fellowship 10 am - Worship w/Communion Choir practice after worship Coffee Fellowship after worship 2 pm - Worship at St. Williams	<b>17</b> 6 pm – Caring Ministry meets	<b>18</b> 6:30 pm – Call Committee meets	<b>19</b>	<b>2-0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23 Sixth Sunday of Pentecost</b> 10 am - Worship Coffee Fellowship after worship Choir practice after worship 2 pm - Worship at St. Williams	<b>24</b> 6 pm - Worship Committee	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Newsletter articles due to church office	<b>29</b>
<b>30 Seventh Sunday of Pentecost</b> 10 am - Worship Coffee Fellowship after worship Choir practice after worship 2 pm - Worship at St. Williams	<b>July 1</b>	<b>July 2</b> 6:30 pm Council meets with Bishop	<b>July 3</b>	<b>July 4</b>	<b>July 5</b>	<b>July 6</b>



